

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /064 R

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R 031148Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SN

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TAKEOVER OF AIRPORT SERVICES

REF: SINGAPORE 1449

1. ALTHOUGH US LEVERAGE IN THIS MATTER IS SMALL, DEPT
AGREES OFFICIAL DEMARCHE TO COMBAT THIS GROWING PROBLEM
IS NECESSARY. REQUEST EMBASSY APPROACH GOS AND REVIEW
FOLLOWING POINTS WITH OFFICIALS AT HIGHEST LEVEL.
AN AIDE MEMOIRE COULD BE PREPARED USING THIS TEXT.

2. USG STRONGLY OPPOSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GROUND
HANDLING MONOPOLIES. MONOPOLIES ELIMINATE ONE IMPORTANT
AREA OF COMPETITION BETWEEN AIRLINES AND TAKE AWAY FROM
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AIRLINES POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING CONSUMER WITH BETTER

SERVICE. EXPERIENCE, UNFORTUNATELY, SHOWS MONOPOLIES FREQUENTLY RESULT IN DETERIORATION OF SERVICE, A TENDENCY TO FAVOR THE NATIONAL AIRLINE, AND UNJUSTIFIED HIGHER COSTS. USG CALLS ATTENTION OF GOS TO RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 6.4 OF PROPOSED ICAO ANNEX 9 AND URGES THAT IT ACCORD THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE AMONG ALTERNATIVES RECOMMENDED THEREIN, I.E. SELFHANDLING, HANDLING BY OTHER AIRLINES, HANDLING BY APPROVED SERVICING AGENTS, AND HANDLING BY THE

AIRPORT AUTHORITY. (FYI: AS PROPOSED, ICAO RECOMMENDATION WOULD MAKE AIRLINES' CHOICE "SUBJECT TO LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE IMPOSED BY THE AIRPORT AUTHORITIES." DEPT CONTENTS THAT THIS REFERS SIMPLY TO AIRPORT AUTHORITIES' POWER TO REGULATE AND IS NOT INTENDED TO VITIATE THE BASIC CONCEPT OF PROVIDING AIRLINES WITH FREEDOM OF CHOICE. TO INTERPRET THE RECOMMENDATION OTHERWISE WOULD RENDER IT MEANINGLESS.

3. TEXT OF RECOMMENDATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

"IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE AIRLINES, IN AGREEMENT WITH, AND SUBJECT TO LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE IMPOSED BY THE AIRPORT AUTHORITIES, BE OFFERED THE CHOICE OF PROVIDING THEIR OWN SERVICES FOR GROUND HANDLING OPERATIONS, OR OF HAVING SUCH OPERATIONS PERFORMED ENTIRELY, OR IN PART, BY AN ORGANIZATION CONTROLLED BY ANOTHER AIRLINE AUTHORIZED BY THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY, OR BY THE AIRPORT OPERATOR, OR BY A SERVICING AGENT LICENSED BY THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY." END FYI.

4. PAN AM, BECAUSE OF TENUOUS POSITION IN SINGAPORE, WILL MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE AND PROTEST MONOPOLY ONLY IN CONCERT WITH OTHER AIRLINES. KISSINGER

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